

# A sad farewell to a newborn

Second of two articles.  
 Awkwardly, she took the fresh, new body in her arms. Her fingers traced the minute features, transmitting the image to her mind. This would be the only newborn picture she would ever have. Tenderly she placed a kiss on the down-covered head and whispered "goodbye."  
 In the same hospital, another newborn was being readied for the trip home. Four years had passed since she dressed her last doll. The 15-year-old mother quickly discovered the grays of an infant make dressing a real baby far more difficult.  
 Then she nuzzled the warm, sweet baby neck and whispered: "You're mine — all mine."



**Jocelyn Krieger**

eight girls can be accommodated in the Louise Program which provides care for a young mother and her baby when conditions have become difficult at home.

A teenage mother who has kept her baby may find infant care and school work an impossible task with little support from parents who didn't want her to keep the child. A time such as this is fertile for growing the conditions of child abuse.

In the Louise Program, the mother returns to Marillac with her baby and shares a dorm separate from the expectant mothers. During the day, she attends high school classes at Marillac with extra courses on child care.

One hour a day must be spent in the play room, participating in day care. The play room has every toy conceivable for toddler play. The mother eats with her child in the dining room. She also works with a social worker and psychologist to learn how to manage her life.

"We direct ourselves to the child. We say, 'You're in the world now and we're going to help you. You're the future generation, tomorrow's leaders.' We've got to help," says Sister Mary Patricia, who has committed herself to preserving the program despite increasing financial strain.

The United Foundation extends itself to the prenatal program, which has been forced to expand with this week marking the addition of eight new places in an effort to diminish the waiting list for Marillac. Financially, the Louise Program is another matter.

If you ever knew the joy of a carefree youth; if ever you were privileged to watch your children grow, day by day, year by year increasingly beautiful — then you should understand the Louise Program at Marilla needs your financial help.

Mrs. Krieger is a freelance writer who lives in Southfield.

**BOTH YOUNG MOTHERS** are typical of the expectant residents of Marillac Hall in Farmington, ranging in age from 12-26, unmarried and in need of a sheltered environment to spend their last three months of pregnancy.

Often they come to Marillac despite their parents' offer to pay for an abortion and, 50 percent of the time, they intend to raise the child themselves.

At Marillac, they continue their high school education with accredited courses in English, history, typing, science and child care, with classes being taught by teachers from the Walled Lake School District in classrooms brightened by posters of children and bearing philosophical thoughts.

The atmosphere at Marillac is as cheerful as sunshine, an illusion created by Sister Mary Patricia, administrator for the home, by the use of shades of yellow in the decorating scheme. Books and periodicals on infant and child care are placed in various rooms.

The day I visited, several girls were sprawled on couches in the television lounge while others wrapped around a kitchen table. A chapel is available for those who wish to use it. Although run by the Sisters of Charity, the facility is non-denominational.

Marillac girls are seen on a one-to-one basis by a social worker, a psychological consultant and an adoption agency worker (Marillac does not handle adoptions). Prenatal care is provided by Providence Hospital doctors.

On delivery day, the soon-to-be mother is accompanied to the ambulance by her resident friends, wearing the scapular medal Sister Patricia awards each girl as a badge of honor for having reached her ninth month.

AN IMPORTANT part of Marillac is the Louise Program. Only

## Four to plan conference

Four Oakland County residents have been appointed by Gov. William Milliken to a committee planning an April statewide conference on families.

They are Charles Donnelly and Janet Johnson, of Birmingham; Alvin Kushner of Southfield and Connie Tar-

ran of Rochester.

The 24-member committee is co-chaired by Detroit City Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey and Susan Brook,

executive coordinator of the Michigan Community Coordinated Child Care Council.

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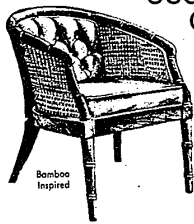
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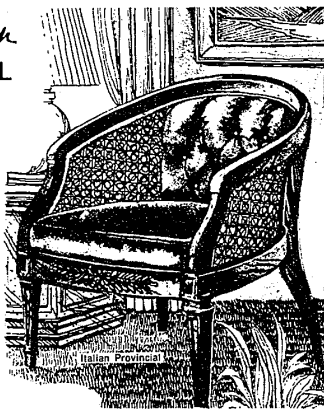
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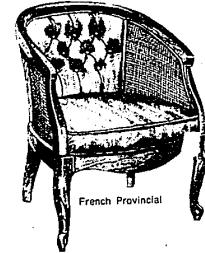
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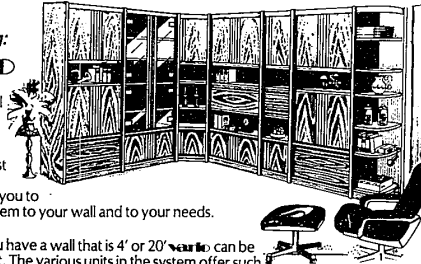
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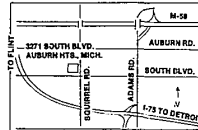
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